

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

No. 191

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Atlantic City Convention

The program for the Atlantic City Convention will go in the mail this week and members should receive their copies promptly. It will be seen that the program covers a varied range of subjects and, when carried out in full detail, will mean a busy week for everyone.

Hotel reservations indicate a large attendance, but the Association still has open tentative reservations for any of its members who may desire them. As all of the sessions of the Convention will be held at the Hotel Chelsea, the Hotel Ambassador and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, the members are largely making reservations at one of these three.

The joint session with the National Wholesale Grocers Association promises to be an outstanding feature and will be largely attended by representative distributors as well as canners. This joint session offers an exceptional opportunity for the canners and their customers to become more intimately acquainted and it is certain that this one feature alone will encourage the big attendance that is expected.

All regular hotel reservations date from Monday, January 24th. If members intend to arrive before that time they will please notify their hotels in advance so as to be sure of getting accommodations upon arrival.

U. S. Standards for Fresh Spinach

The following grades for fresh spinach (1926)* which will undoubtedly be of interest to spinach canners, have just been announced by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

*These grades do not apply to the so-called New Zealand spinach.

U. S. No. 1 shall consist of spinach plants of similar varietal characteristics which are well grown, tender, well trimmed, free from decay, and from damage caused by coarse fibrous stalks, seed stems, yellow or discolored leaves, wilting, freezing, dirt, disease, insects or mechanical or other means.

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than a total of 10 per cent, by weight, of the plants in any lot may be below the requirements of this grade, but not more than one-fifth of this amount or 2 per cent, may be affected by decay.

Unclassified. Spinach which is not graded in conformity with the foregoing grade may be designated as Unclassified.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

As used in these grades:

1. "Similar varietal characteristics" means that spinach shall be generally of one type, as crinkly leaf type or flat leaf type. No mixture of varieties shall be permitted which materially affects the appearance of the lot.

2. "Well grown" means plants which are not stunted or poorly developed.

3. "Well trimmed" means that spinach plants should have roots not longer than approximately 1 inch. No plants shall be admitted to U. S. No. 1 grade if the roots are long enough to damage the appearance of the lot.

4. "Damage" means any injury from the causes mentioned which materially affects the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality. Plants which have reached a stage of development where the flower buds are plainly visible, or where the plants have developed coarse stalks that would cause more than 10 per cent waste shall be considered as damaged. Plants which have small dried, withered, or slightly yellowed leaves at the base of the plants shall not be considered as damaged unless the general appearance of the plant or of the lot as a whole is materially affected.

Progress of European Corn Borer Campaign

In our Information Letter No. 188 of December 4th, attention was called to the aggressive campaign for extermination of the corn borer being planned by the Executive Committee of the International Corn Borer Organization.

This Committee held another meeting in Washington, December 14th and 15th, during which conferences were held with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Director of Scientific Research of the Department of Agriculture, and with Hon. Fred S. Purnell, of Indiana, a member of the House Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Agriculture.

The Committee strongly urged that an appropriation of ten million dollars be made by Congress to combat this serious pest and Congressman Purnell has agreed to introduce such a bill and will do all in his power to secure passage of the necessary legislation. It will be entirely appropriate and helpful for those interested in the project, either individual canners or canners' organizations, to send a letter to Mr. Purnell urging support for the project.

Plans for an extensive research program on the corn borer were discussed and it was agreed that a conference of experiment station directors and interested specialists should be called January 6th to 8th at Washington. It is hoped that representatives from all interested states will attend and steps will be taken to advance the research work.

If canners or canners' organizations have any suggestions for the Committee these should be sent to the Chairman, Professor G. I. Christie, Lafayette, Indiana.

Pending Legislation

Prison Labor Bill—

It is reported that the House Committee on Labor is getting actively behind the Cooper Bill regulating the interstate shipment of prison-made goods.

Under this bill, food products, or other manufactured products, made in prisons and penitentiaries, cannot be shipped from one state into another unless they comply with the law of the state into which they are shipped. This gives each state power to determine its own policy on the distribution and sale of products made by convict labor which come into competition with industries of their own state.

Correct Branding Bills—

Two new bills have been introduced in this session of Congress to prohibit the interstate shipment or importation of articles which are misbranded or otherwise misrepresented.

The Smoot Bill (Senate 48-45) is modeled quite closely on the misbranding features of the Food and Drugs Act that places the enforcement of the proposed bill in the hands of the De-

partment of Commerce, and provides for the examination of articles in the Bureau of Standards of that Department.

This is the same bill as the Lodge Bill, introduced in the 68th Congress.

The Merritt Bill (H. R. 3904) has been reported out by the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce with a recommendation that it be passed.

This bill is similar in many features to the Smoot Bill, but the enforcement of it is placed in the hands of the Federal Trade Commission.

The House of Representatives has passed the bill known as H. R. 12315, which would amend the Food and Drugs Act so as to require that nuts, raw fruits and raw vegetables grown outside of the United States and its territories be misbranded if not plainly and conspicuously labelled to indicate (a) the country where grown and (b) the common name and quantity by weight or volume of any such product if mixed with nuts, raw fruits or raw vegetables grown in the United States.

Standard Invoice Form

The Division of Simplified Practice, Department of Commerce, announces that they will call a conference on February 16, 1927, to consider the revision of the proposed National Standard Invoice Form which was created by a standing Committee appointed at a conference called by the Department in January, 1925.

The Department of Commerce urges all producers and users of invoices to submit their suggestions to Mr. R. M. Hudson, Chief of the Division of Simplified Practice, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., on or before January 15, 1927. These suggestions will be referred to the standing Committee, and will help in the preliminary work necessary in preparing for the February conference.

Disposal of Cannery Wastes

The Wisconsin State Board of Health has issued a report from its Bureau of Sanitary Engineering, covering experimental work carried on by that Bureau in cooperation with the Wisconsin Cannery Association, the State Conservation Commission and this Association, and entitled "The Treatment of Pea Cannery Wastes."

This report has been published and a copy will be sent to our members. If additional copies are desired please notify us.

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